***A Christmas Carol*: Essay on Theme (Your Choice)**

**Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

1. **Attach your brainstorming map. (5 pts.) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**
2. **Use your brainstorming map to refine your focus and create an outline below. (20 pts.)**

**Main idea/focus (write as one clearly defined sentence):**

**\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**Note: This sentence should state your focus clearly and launch your essay; it may provide a roadmap for your discussion.**

**Body:**

**Topic sentence 1:**

**(As you write , explain further here.)**

**Evidence (with page number):**

**(As you write, comment on the meaning you find in the evidence here.)**

**Topic sentence 2:**

**(As you write , explain further here.)**

**Evidence (with page number):**

**(As you write, comment on the meaning you find in the evidence here.)**

**Note: Continue in this format as needed. You will probably not have time to explore more than three points.**

**Keep in mind: Your essay will be graded on the following elements:**

**\*Introduction with a clear focus that mentions specific points to be touched on (roadmap). The introduction should name the author and title and include an inviting opener.**

**\* Body paragraphs with topic sentences related to the focus, detailed explanations, and specific support from the story.**

**\* Conclusion that ties together the points of the essay and considers their impact on the story. (Note: The conclusion should not merely restate earlier points; instead, it should reflect on the meaning found in them.)**

**\* Clarity and organization of ideas: everything should connect to the main focus; one idea should flow into the next.**

**\* Careful proofreading and editing – especially sentence construction (no run-ons or fragments) and basic mechanics.**